

Amendments to the claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of the claims:

- 1-6. (Cancelled)
7. (New) A system for coupling optical guides, comprising:
a dielectric optical guide,
a planar photonic crystal guide coupled to the dielectric optical guide, both guides forming a coupling structure, the crystal guide having a gradual variation in width, and
a plurality of point defects introduced in at least one of the optical guide or the crystal guide, wherein each of the plurality of point defects has at least one selected from a group consisting of a radius of a point defect, a dielectric constant of the point defect, a relative position of the point defect, and a height of the point defect.
8. (New) The system according to claim 7, wherein the coupling structure for adapting the width between both guides comprises a range of length, width and shape, of both the dielectric guide and the photonic crystal guide.
9. (New) The system according to claim 7, wherein a photonic crystal has one of a triangular grid and a square grid, and has a range of values of grid constant, radius of the crystal, height of the crystal, and difference in indices between the crystal and a material above and below the crystal.
10. (New) The system according to claim 7, wherein the dielectric guide has a range of configuration and refraction indices, including optical fiber.
11. (New) The system according to claim 7, wherein the photonic crystal guide has a range of width and type, including a guide based on coupled cavities (CROW).

12. (New) The system according to claim 7, wherein an optimum number of defects and characteristics of each defect, both for introducing light from a dielectric guide into a photonic crystal guide and for extracting light from a photonic crystal guide into a dielectric guide, is chosen.

13. (New) The system of claim 10, wherein the range of configuration comprises height of the nucleus and layers surrounding the nucleus.